

M e m o r a n d u m

Date: August 27, 1998

To: BDAC Assurances and Ecosystem Restoration Work Groups

From: CALFED Bay-Delta Program

Subject: Review of Draft Species List and Preliminary Determination of Species Goals for the Conservation Strategy

The CALFED Bay-Delta Program's Conservation Strategy Team, consisting of CALFED and agency staff, is responsible for preparation of the CALFED Conservation Strategy. The Conservation Strategy, when completed, will provide the framework for compliance with the Federal Endangered Species Act, the California Endangered Species Act, and the Natural Community Conservation Planning Act, and ensure that the overall CALFED Program recovers, contributes to the recovery of, or maintains species and habitats covered under the Conservation Strategy.

The Conservation Strategy Team, working with a contractor and resource agency staff, has completed a draft list of species proposed to be addressed by the Conservation Strategy (see attached list). Earlier versions of species lists (which were provided to the Ecosystem Restoration and Assurances Workgroups) were separated by region, i.e., Delta Region, Bay Region, Sacramento River Region, and San Joaquin River Region -- the attached list is a consolidation of the four separate lists into one single list. The purpose of consolidating the list was to reduce redundancy.

The Conservation Strategy Team has also assigned draft conservation goals (see attached definitions) for each species covered under the Conservation Strategy. The Team is recommending that the conservation goals, when finalized, will be adopted by CALFED as program goals. The Conservation Strategy will then assess the CALFED programmatic actions to determine whether conservation goals for each species could be met. The Strategy will provide recommendations, when necessary and appropriate, for refinement of ERP and other Program actions so that conservation goals are met.

CALFED Agencies

California The Resources Agency
 Department of Fish and Game
 Department of Water Resources
 California Environmental Protection Agency
 State Water Resources Control Board

Federal Environmental Protection Agency
 Department of the Interior
 Fish and Wildlife Service
 Bureau of Reclamation
 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Department of Commerce
National Marine Fisheries Service

Below is a brief review of the methods the Conservation Strategy Team used to select species covered under the Conservation Strategy and to determine species goals.

1. The first step in compiling the species list was to list *all special status species* that occur within the four regions noted above. Special status species include species that are: federally listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act (ESA); proposed for Federal listing under the ESA; Federal candidates under the ESA; California listed as threatened or endangered under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA); California candidates under the CESA; California fully protected species or specified birds; California species of special concern; California Native Plant Society (CNPS) List 1A, 1B, List 2, or List 3; or other species of concern to CALFED. *All special status species are shown on the attached list.*
2. The Conservation Strategy Team then determined which species on the lists met criteria for inclusion in the Conservation Strategy. Inclusion in the Conservation Strategy means that the species will be addressed in the Conservation Strategy; that is, the Program effects on the species will be analyzed and appropriate conservation measures will be developed. Species had to meet the following criteria to be included in the Conservation Strategy: the species is federally or California listed as rare, threatened, or endangered; the species is a California fully protected species; *or* the species could become federally or California listed as threatened or endangered during the term of CALFED implementation; *and* the species could be affected by CALFED actions. Species considered to have the potential to become federally or California listed during the term of CALFED implementation are those that are: proposed for Federal listing; Federal candidates; or California candidates. In addition, California species of special concern, specified birds, CNPS List 1 and List 2 species, and other species of concern were considered to have the potential to become listed if CALFED actions could affect a substantial portion of the species' range or important habitat, or if the species is rare or its distribution is limited.

Species that did not meet the criteria for inclusion (i.e., species that do not have and are not expected to have legal status during CALFED implementation or are not expected to be affected by CALFED actions) were excluded from the Conservation Strategy species list. Those species that were excluded are indicated on the list by gray shading - these species will not be explicitly addressed in the Conservation Strategy. Please note that many of the excluded species will actually benefit from the conservation strategy through benefits to the habitats in which they occur.

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Thus, the species that will be addressed by the Conservation Strategy are indicated on the list as unshaded. The shaded species will not be explicitly addressed by the Conservation Strategy.

3. The Conservation Strategy Team, working with CALFED ERP staff, developed three general conservation goals for the Conservation Strategy species. The intention is that CALFED will adopt the goals and aim to achieve the species goals through implementation of the entire CALFED Program. The three species goals are: recover; contribute to the recovery of; and maintain the species. *Definitions of each of the goals and general guidelines for how they were determined for each species are attached.*
4. The Conservation Strategy Team then made preliminary determinations of an appropriate goal (recovery (R), contribute to recovery (r), or maintain (m)) for each of the covered species on the list. *These preliminary determinations are indicated by a hand written "R," "r," or "m" in the left margin of the attached species list.*

Attached for your review and comment are the Definitions of Recommended CALFED Species Goals (7 pages) and the Preliminary Draft List of Species Currently Proposed to be Included in the CALFED Conservation Strategy with preliminary determinations of species goals (18 pages). We are seeking any comments or suggestions on the species list (including species included or excluded, criteria for inclusion, etc.) and on the species goals (including how the goals are defined, the preliminary goal assigned to each species, etc.).

We would appreciate receipt of comments on the species list and the preliminary species goals by October 1, 1998. Comments may be provided to Michael Fris (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 3310 El Camino Avenue, Suite 130, Sacramento, California, 95821; phone: (916) 979-2107; fax: (916) 979-2128; e-mail: Michael_Fris@mail.fws.gov).